November 30, 2014

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Eleven O’Clock

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. We encourage you to use this time for meditation and reflection. Please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your friendship with those around you. Wireless hearing aids are available in the narthex.

The Worship of God

Meditation: Noel Tendrement

THE BLESSING OF THE HOLLY AND THE IVY

Spencer Bulluck

ANTHEM: “Sans Day Carol” Cornish Traditional Carol/arr. John Rutter

Now the Holly bears a berry as white as the milk and Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk. And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be and the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly. Now the Holly bears a berry as green as the grass and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross. Now the Holly bears a berry as black as the coal and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all. Now the Holly bears a berry as blood is it red then trust we our Savior who rose from the dead.

THE BLESSING OF THE GREENERY AND WREATHS

Mary Jo Williamson

CAROL MEDLEY

(Please remain seated and sing while the greenery and poinsettias are being placed.)

The Hanging of the Greens

119: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

WAY IN A MANGER

147 (stanzas 1&3): “Away in a Manger”

125 (stanzas 1&2): “Come, O Long-expected Jesus”

150 (stanzas 1&3): “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

The BLESSING OF THE Poinsettias

Stancil Barnes

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Noel Stranger

* THE DOXOLOGY

A watching, waiting people look for signs from above. We keep awake, expecting the coming of your love. We know good news shall be here soon, a blessed one shall come; prepare in us a warm heart, a place to keep your son. A voice cries out, “Get ready, prepare a way for God; be ready for his coming, the coming of our Lord.” We know good news shall be here soon, a blessed one shall come; prepare in us a warm heart, a place to keep your son. We know good news shall be here soon, a blessed one shall come; prepare in us a warm heart, a place to keep your son. We know good news shall be here soon, the blessed one is near; we’ll make for him a warm heart, we’ll hold your own son dear.

THE BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

Tracy Corbett

ANTHEM: “A Place to Keep Your Son”

J. Bach

ANTHEM: “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

J. Bach

THE GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA

Gloria be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to God the Spirit, Ever three and ever one, Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

* THE INVOCATION AND LORD’S PRAYER

CHILDREN’S ANTHEM: “Let Every Heart Prepare a Throne”

Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne for soon the Child of Light will come. Let ev’ry voice prepare a song to welcome Christ the Promised One. Let ev’ry hand reach out with love to greet this gift from God above. Make ready now, the Savior comes, the Prince of Peace, the Promised One. So let the flame of Advent glow, each candle shines that all may know the hope we need, so long foretold will soon be here for us to hold.

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Mark 1:1-8

J. S. Bach

PRAYER

Anne Chappell
THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 40:1-11

MEDITATION: “Christmas Reflections: The Hope of the Prophets” Jody Wright

CONFESSION OF FAITH
Leader: Let us decorate this tree with symbols of our faith.
The Chrismons we use represent the life and inspiration of the church in times past, the witness of the church today, and the hope of the church for generations to come.

People: As we share these symbols, let us confess what we believe.

Leader: We believe in God.

People: Father, Creator, Sustainer.

Leader: And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

People: Alpha and Omega, Light of light, Prince of Peace, King of kings, Lord of lords.

Immanuel: God with us.

Leader: Jesus! Born of the virgin Mary, born in Bethlehem, cradled in a manger. Heralded by shepherds, Magi, and angelic hosts.

People: Glory to God in the highest and on earth ... peace.

Leader: We believe in the Holy Spirit.

People: Comforter, Heavenly Dove, Spirit of Love.

Leader: We believe in the church.

People: The Body of Christ, the communion of the saints, the people of God.

Leader: We believe in the Word of Life.

People: Sent from God: living, transforming, and challenging.

Leader: We believe that Christ has conquered life and death.

People: That he was crucified, dead, and buried: the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Leader: We believe in the resurrection.

People: Offering life everlasting!

Leader: Bursting forth with hope!

People: Hallelujah!

Leader: Let us offer our lives to God.

People: In gratitude for the gift of love and life, we offer ourselves to God. Amen.

* RECESSIONAL CAROL 144: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” St. Louis

* ORGAN RECESSIONAL: In Dulci Jubilo J.S. Bach

The congregation will recess to Robbins Hall in the Kincheloe Building for a dedication and reception. We encourage you to exit through the door nearest your seat.

* Congregation stands.

The poinsettias and wreaths that adorn the sanctuary and the doors of the church are given to the glory of God and in memory or in honor of loved ones. Please see the memorial brochure for a listing of these gifts.

THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP
Jody C. Wright
Senior Minister

Elizabeth Edwards
Associate Minister

Amy Shortt
Minister of Music

Connor Evans
Acolyte

Mark Gansor
Organist

Beth Seagroves
Crucifer

Michael Waters
Torch Bearer

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